

Rural District Council

OF

TENTERDEN,

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1898,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.*



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# Annual Report on the Health of the Tenterden Rural Sanitary District in 1898

| CENSUS 1881.         | CENSUS 1891. |
|----------------------|--------------|
| No. of Acres .....   | 38,854       |
| Inhabited Houses ... | 1,436        |
| Population .....     | 6,841        |
|                      |              |
|                      |              |
| No. of Acres .....   | 38,854       |
| Inhabited Houses ... | 1,400        |
| Population .....     | 6,537        |

**The Population** of the Tenterden Rural District was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar General to be **6,325** at the middle of 1898, showing a decrease of 29 since the middle of 1897.

One hundred and forty-one births were registered during the year, including 81 of males and 60 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of **22·2** per 1,000 of population, as against 19·3 in 1897 and 23·0 in 1896.

The number of registered deaths amounted to 69, which included 37 of males and 32 of females. In addition to this number 11 deaths occurred outside the District, viz: in the Union Workhouse, among persons belonging thereto.

The **Death Rate** was low, being **12·6** per 1,000 of population as compared with 10·8 in 1897 and 15·8 in 1896.

It is most satisfactory to report that of the total 69 deaths not a single one was caused by any of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, and the **Zymotic Death-rate** was consequently **nil**.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.* the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was very low, being only **56**.

During the year 1898 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales, taken as a whole, was 29·4; the general death-rate 17·6 and the Zymotic death rate 2·2 per 1,000 of population. The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age to 1,000 registered births was 161.

It is, therefore, apparent that the General Death-rate, the Zymotic Death-rate and the Infant Mortality were respectively 5·0, 2·2, and 105 below those of the country generally—figures rarely obtained even in healthy Rural Districts.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, only 15 cases were notified as compared with 28 in 1897 and 20 1896, viz: 7 of Scarlet Fever, 6 of Diphtheria and 2 of Erysipelas.

**Scarlet Fever.** The 7 cases reported occurred as follows:

|                |         |                          |
|----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Biddenden..... | 1 case  | Stone-cum-Ebony...1 case |
| Rolvenden..... | 5 cases |                          |

at the following age periods.

| 1—5<br>years. | 5—15<br>years. | 15—25<br>years. |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1             | 4              |                 |
|               |                | 2 = 7 cases.    |

None of the cases ended fatally.

**Diphtheria.** Six cases occurred in the District—three at Woodchurch, two at Biddenden and one at Kenardington.

Those at Woodchurch occurred one in August and two in October. The latter cases were two sisters aged 14 and 17 years respectively and were notified on the same day.

The drainage at this house was somewhat defective, the house drains discharging into a watercourse at the back of the house, which at this time of the year was dry and offensive.

The cases at Biddenden were children of a travelling hawker who had encamped in a van at Clapper Hill Farm.

A bell tent, belonging to the Borough of Tenterden was borrowed and erected in the field and the non-affected part of the family removed to it for isolation. The first child (aged  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years) passed through a very severe attack, but the elder child (aged 12 years) had the disease in a somewhat milder form.

The parents carefully carried out my instructions and those of the medical attendant (Dr. Paget) at whose instigation the tent was procured. The van was afterwards disinfected, some clothing and rags burnt and no infection was spread in the neighbourhood.

This isolation could not have been carried out if the weather had not been favourable.

The case at Kenardington occurred in June and was limited to the one case—a boy aged 10 years, who had been attending the Warehorne School, in the East Ashford Rural District, which was closed on account of the prevalence of Diphtheria.

There were 3 other young children (aged 6, 8 and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years) at home, but the patient was separated in a detached part of the house and instructions as to isolation were intelligently and carefully carried out by the mother, with the result that the disease was limited to the one child.

**Erysipelas.** The only two cases occurred at Biddenden in May and Wittersham in August, and both recovered.

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## NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Not a single death was caused by any of the diseases coming under the above heading, the district being singularly free, except the parish of Biddenden, where the School had to be closed in July on account of the prevalence of Whooping-Cough. No fatal cases, however, occurred.

**Influenza** was somewhat prevalent causing 5 deaths, three in Biddenden, one in Newenden and one in Wittersham. The patients were all adults varying in age from 25 to 88 years.

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## INSPECTIONS.

During the year I made eight inspections on different occasions in the Tenterden Rural District.

Three were made in Rolvenden on account of scattered cases of Scarlet Fever appearing in that village during February, March and April.

I also made inspections at Woodchurch, Stone-cum-Ebony, Wittersham and Biddenden.

It has not been found necessary to take any action in respect to bakehouses, slaughterhouses, or dairies and cowsheds, all those which have come under notice having been found in a satisfactory condition.

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## WATER SUPPLY.

The Cranbrook Water Company have now acquired water rights over the parishes of Rolvenden, Newenden, Woodchurch Wittersham and Stone-cum-Ebony in this District, and mains are being laid through Rolvenden towards Tenterden, so that the available water supply of the District has every appearance of being considerably augmented in the near future.

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## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

It was found necessary to advise the closure of only two schools in the District during the year 1898, viz; Rolvenden School from March 30th to April 8th, on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the parish, and Biddenden School from July 18th to August 8th, in consequence of Whooping Cough amongst the scholars.

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## REFUSE REMOVAL AND DRAINAGE.

The removal of refuse is carried on throughout the District by private owners and occupiers and so far no difficulty has been found in carrying out these arrangements, as the villages within the Council's area are of a strictly agricultural character.

I had occasion during October to inspect the sewage outfalls at Woodchurch, which, principally owing to the exceptionally dry state of the season, were at some points not in a satisfactory condition.

The stationary condition of the population and the small rateable value of the parish render a comprehensive sewage scheme scarcely feasible, but I think some improvement is desirable.

With the exception of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, none of the more recent and adoptive Acts—the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, the parts of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act applicable to Rural Districts, or the Private Street Works Act, have been put in force.

In view of the numbers of travelling vans and itinerants, who pass through this District more particularly during the summer and hop-picking season, the District Council adopted a set of Bye-Laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures at a meeting of the Council held on June 10th, 1898.

These bye-laws were allowed by the Local Government Board on September 6th, 1898.

It was not found necessary to institute any legal proceedings during the year under the Public Health Act.

The sanitary conditions generally in the Tenterden Rural District are satisfactory, the health, as shown by the appended statistics having been excellent.

Mr. Turner's Report of work done during the year, and the customary tables and Vital Statistics are appended.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

March 6th, 1899.

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

Feb. 2nd, 1899.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Tenterden Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1898.

During this period 113 inspections have been made; 21 notices to abate served; and in 19 cases the works suggested have been carried out, the remaining two will shortly complete the necessary improvements,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. C. TURNER,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

TABLE I.

The number of Deaths from all causes and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases with their Death-rates; the principal causes of death and the Infant Mortality in each Quarter of 1898, in the Tenterden Rural District.

| QUARTERS. |     | Total Deaths. |      | Death-rate per 1000. |     | Deaths from seven principal Zymotics. |     | Zymotic Death-rate. |     | Whooping Cough. |     | Diarrhœa. |     | Rheumatic Fever. |     | Phthisis. |     | Bronchitis Pneumonia |     | Influenza. |     | All other Diseases. |     | Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 Births. |     |
|-----------|-----|---------------|------|----------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------------------|-----|------------|-----|---------------------|-----|---|-----|
| 1st       | ... | 20            | 15.1 | 0                    | 0.0 | ...                                   | ... | ...                 | ... | ...             | ... | ...       | ... | ...              | ... | ...       | ... | 4                    | 5   | 2          | 2   | 3                   | 1   | 12  | 111 |
| 2nd       | ... | 22            | 15.1 | 0                    | 0.0 | ...                                   | ... | ...                 | ... | ...             | ... | ...       | ... | ...              | ... | ...       | ... | 1                    | 1   | ...        | ... | ...                 | ... | 12  | 29  |
| 3rd       | ... | 11            | 8.2  | 0                    | 0.0 | ...                                   | ... | ...                 | ... | ...             | ... | ...       | ... | ...              | ... | ...       | ... | 1                    | ... | ...        | ... | ...                 | ... | 10  | 30  |
| 4th       | ... | 16            | 12.0 | 0                    | 0.0 | ...                                   | ... | ...                 | ... | ...             | ... | ...       | ... | ...              | ... | ...       | ... | 1                    | ... | 2          | ... | ...                 | ... | 13  | 52  |
| Totals    |     | 69            | 12.6 | 0                    | 0.0 | ...                                   | ... | ...                 | ... | ...             | ... | ...       | ... | ...              | ... | ...       | ... | 3                    | 9   | 4          | 5   | 1                   | 47  | 56  |     |

TABLE II.

## Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the past Ten years and in 1898.

| Zymotic Diseases.       | 1888. | 1889. | 1890. | 1891. | 1892. | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. | 1896. | 1897. | Average of ten years. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| Small Pox .....         | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 0.0 0                 |
| Scarlet Fever .....     | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   | 0.2 0                 |
| Diphtheria .....        | ..    | ...   | 2     | ...   | 9     | ...   | ...   | 3     | 2     | 4     | 2.0 0                 |
| Fevers .....            | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | 0.1   | 0                     |
| Measles .....           | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   | 0.2 0                 |
| Whooping Cough .....    | 1     | ...   | 1     | 4     | 1     | ...   | 5     | 2     | ...   | ...   | 1.4 0                 |
| Diarrhoea.....          | 1     | ...   | 1     | 2     | 2     | ...   | ...   | ..    | ..    | ..    | 0.6 0                 |
| Total of Zymotics ..... | 3     | ...   | 4     | 7     | 12    | ..    | 5     | 5     | 4     | 5     | 4.5 0                 |
| Other Zymotics .....    | 2     | 3     | ...   | 5     | 2     | 5     | 1     | 3     | 4     | 1     | 2.6 5                 |
| Totals .....            | 5     | 3     | 4     | 12    | 14    | 5     | 6     | 8     | 8     | 6     | 7.1 5                 |

TABLE III.

The more populous Parishes in the Tenterden Rural District ranged in order of their Death-rates; the total Deaths; Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases and the Zymotic Death-rates in the year 1898.

| Parishes.        | Census Population 1891. | Total Deaths. | Death-rate per 1000. | Deaths from 7 principal Zymotics. | Zymotic Death-rate. |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rolvenden.....   | 1194                    | 12            | 10.4                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |
| Woodchurch ..... | 1179                    | 9             | 10.5                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |
| High Halден..... | 646                     | 7             | 10.7                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |
| Biddenden.....   | 1362                    | 13            | 10.9                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |
| Appledore .....  | 595                     | 7             | 14.3                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |
| Wittersham ..... | 803                     | 9             | 14.7                 | 0                                 | 0.0                 |

A TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1898, in the Tenterden Rural Sanitary District  
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. | MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES. |               |                |                 |                  |                  | Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five years of age. |                  |            |                  |            |        |
|--|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------|
|  | At all ages.                                  | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards.   | Under 5 upwards. | 5 upwards. | Under 5 upwards. | 5 upwards. | Total. |
| Appledore .....  | 7   | ...           | ...            | ...             | ...              | 2                | 5   | Under 5 upwards. | 1          | ...              | ...        | ...    |
| Biddenden ... ..   | 13  | 1             | 1              | ...             | ...              | 4                | 7   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | 2                | ...        | 7      |
| High Halden .....  | 7   | 2             | ...            | ...             | ...              | ...              | 5   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | ...              | 1          | 2      |
| Kenardington ... ..  | 6   | 2             | ...            | ...             | 1                | 1                | 2   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | ...              | ...        | 11     |
| Newenden .....   | 2   | ..            | ...            | ...             | ...              | 2                | ...   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | ...              | ...        | 2      |
| Rolvenden .....  | 12  | ...           | 1              | ...             | 1                | 5                | 5   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | 1                | ...        | 11     |
| Stone-cum-Ebony .....  | 4   | ...           | 2              | ...             | ...              | 1                | 1   | Under 5 upwards. | 2          | ...              | ...        | 2      |
| Wittersham .....   | 9   | 1             | 1              | ...             | 1                | 2                | 4   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | 1                | ...        | 2      |
| Woodchurch .....   | 9   | 2             | ...            | ...             | ...              | 4                | 3   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | 2                | ...        | 7      |
| Totals .....   | 69  | 8             | 5              | ...             | 3                | 21               | 32  | Under 5 upwards. | 3          | 4                | 5          | 139    |
| Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.   | 11  | ...           | ...            | ...             | ...              | 2                | 9   | Under 5 upwards. | ...        | 2                | ...        | 56     |
|  |   |               |                |                 |                  | ...              | ...   |                  | ...        | 2                | ...        | 11     |

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of infectious sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Tenterden Rural Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

| Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. | Population at all ages. | Estimated to middle of 1898. | Last Census. | Registered Births.<br>Regoistered | New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. |             |             |              |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|  |                         |                              |              |                                   | Aged under 5 or over 5   | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Herpangitis. |
| Appledore .....  | 595                     | 559                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | ...         | ...          |
| Biddenden .....  | 1362                    | 1369                         | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | 1           | ...          |
| High Halden .....  | 646                     | 652                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | 1           | 1           | 1            |
| Kenardington .....   | 194                     | 198                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | ...         | ...          |
| Newenden .....   | 149                     | 146                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | 1           | ...          |
| Rolvenden .....  | 1194                    | 1131                         | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | 4           | ...         | ...          |
| Stone-cum-Ebony .....  | 415                     | 387                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | 1           | ...         | ...          |
| Wittersham.....  | 803                     | 747                          | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | ...         | 1            |
| Woodchurch .....   | 1179                    | 1136                         | ...          | ...                               | Under 5 upwards.   | ...         | 3           | ...          |
| Totals .....   | 6537                    | 6325                         | 141          | 141                               | Under 5 upwards.   | 1           | 1           | 2            |

